



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Committee Report

Committee Name: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Date: August 24, 2010

Co-Chairs: Les Beck

Rick Hunsaker

Scope of committee work:

- 1) Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and develop recommendations for a process to measure progress toward achieving those goals.
- 2) Review city and county comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards as listed in the Hazards Element of the suggested local comprehensive plan guidelines and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.
- 3) Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.
- 4) Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
- 5) Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.

Please list all members that participated in the work of this committee:

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Les Beck	Iowa State Association of Counties	les.beck@linncounty.org	319-892-5151
Rick Hunsaker	Iowa Association of Regional Councils	rhunsaker@region12cog.org	712-792-9914
Charles Connerly	University of Iowa	Charles-connerly@uiowa.edu	319-335-0032
David Wilwerding	American Planning Association	dwilwerding@ci.johnston.ia.us	515-727-7765
Rep. Tom Schueller	State Representative, Democrat	Tom.schueller@legis.state.ia.us	515-281-3221
Pamela Myhre	City of Mason City	pmyhre@masoncity.net	641-421-3626

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Chad Keune	ACB/Ruhl & Ruhl	chad@acbiowa.com	319-339-8104
Gary Taylor	ISU Extension	gtaylor@iastate.edu	515-290-0214
Paula Mohr	Dept. of Cultural Affairs	paula.mohr@iowa.gov	515-281-6828
Wayne Peterson	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)	wayne.petersen@iowaagriculture.gov	515-281-5833
Teri Goodman	City of Dubuque	tgoodman@cityofdubuque.org	563-589-4110
Carey Nagle	American Institute of Architects	cnagle@bnim.com	515-974-6462
Jessica Harder	Iowa League of Cities	jessicaharder@iowaleague.org	515-974-5312

Please list all staff and outside advisors that participated in the work of this committee:

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Jenna Anderson	Rebuild Iowa Office	jenna.anderson@rio.iowa.gov	515-242-5213
Liz Van Zomeren	Rebuild Iowa Office	liz.vanzomeren@rio.iowa.gov	515-242-5254
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Mary Beth Mellick	Iowa Association of Councils (ISAC)	mbmellick@iowacounties.org	515-244-7181
Deb Kozel	Legislative Services Agency (LSA)	Deb.kozel@legis.state.ia.us	515-281-6767
Theresa Kehoe	Iowa Senate Democrats	Theresa.kehoe@legis.state.ia.us	515-281-7696
John McCurdy	Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO)	John.mccurdy@swipco.org	712-243-4196

Please list experts and interest groups that were consulted in the development of the committee's proposals:

- Land use experts:
- Agricultural and environmental interests:
- Urban and regional planning experts:
 - Les Beck, Iowa Association of Counties
- Others:
 - Legislative
 - Rep. Tom Schueller, State Representative- Democrat
 - Local Finance
 - Jessica Harder, Iowa League of Cities

Committee Assignments for Next Meeting (September 7, 1:00-3:00PM, Location- State Library, Miller Building, Room 310):

- Review and approve recommendations for submittal to Task Force

Committee Meeting Notes

(Note: Committee documents can be found at
http://rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/meetings.html)

I. Workgroup Sessions

[See workgroup reports]

II. Workgroup Report Outs (Full Committee)

- **Workgroup C Summary** (*Jenna Anderson, Les Beck*)
 - **State- level entity**
 - **Planning Structure:** The workgroup talked about a proposed planning structure that includes a state level entity for coordination of planning efforts. This organizational chart is in revisions and will be available to the full committee shortly.
 - **Planning Coordination:** A “Plan A” and “Plan B” were devised for what the state entity would be. Plan A recommends a identifying a state agency (whether a new agency is created or it is housed in an existing agency) to coordinate efforts. Plan B was to establish a public-private partnership between the League of Cities, ISAC, IARC, ISU Extension and other interested stakeholders to take on the coordination responsibilities.
 - **Scope of Work:** The workgroup also discussed the scope of work of the coordination entity, including creating a certification process for smart plans.
 - **Certification of Smart Plans Recommendation**
 - This recommendation was added to the “List of Recommendations” under “Program Incentives”. The process would expedite grant processes with a one-time (per a determined time period) review and certification of local plans meeting the smart plan guidance.
 - Discussion was had as to who would be best to review and certify plans. The workgroup went over pros and cons of state-level review versus regional review. (See workgroup report)
 - **Adoption of State Goals**

- Brief description of the recommendation to adopt the State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals as the guiding principles for the state coordinating entity.
- **Hazards Element Recommendations**
 - Creating a model: This would be part of the state coordinating entities scope of work unless the task force wishes to take it on.
 - Minimum requirements for a hazards element: This recommendations comes from the legislative language and will come into play in the certification process.
- **Workgroup D Report Out (Rick Hunsaker)**
 - Rick Hunsaker gave a brief overview of the nine recommendations from Workgroup D and some of the revisions made.
 - Nichole Warren will be making editing and will send out the revised recommendations Wednesday, August 25th.

III. Incentives and Assistance Committee Small Groups

**The original recommendations are listed with revisions or discussions posted below that.*

- **Small Group 1: Funding and Program Incentives**
 - 4.1.1 Reallocate or redirect a portion of the real estate transfer tax for a source at the state level for funding of local smart planning.
 - Roll this recommendation into 4.1.6.
 - 4.1.3 Continue to fund support and expand funding for technical planning (GIS, graphics, etc.)
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 - 4.1.4 Provide additional funding for projects that are described in or are in agreement with an adopted regional smart plan.
 - Change “provide additional” to “Prioritize”.
 - 4.1.5 Expand the menu of financing options above and beyond property tax for municipalities with a smart plan (e.g. Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs), impact fees, etc.)
 - Change “municipalities” to “local governments”
 - 4.1.6 Create a sustainable grant program at the state level with money specifically allocated for local and regional smart planning and plan implementation.
- **Small Group 2: Resources and Disincentives**

- 4.2.2 Create a program of education for local governments, officials and the public on land use, smart planning principles and comprehensive planning in general. This program should be a collaboration between the COGs, League of Cities, Iowa universities and community colleges, the Iowa Association of Regional Councils, and state agencies.
 - League of Cities, ISAC and ISU Extension will take the lead on organizing resources and other stakeholders and creating a smart planning program of education.
 - Focus will be on what smart planning means in terms of plan elements and plan implementation. Other topics may be covered as determined by those creating the program.
 - Audience will include public, government staff, and elected and appointed officials.
 - Language needs to be included in the final recommendation to connect this to 4.2.3.
- 4.2.3 Develop a planning toolbox to be housed at the state coordinating entity that will serve as a one-stop shop for information and resources.
 - The toolbox would include information on the planning process; smart planning principles; model plans, ordinances, zoning codes, energy codes, building codes and permitting; regulatory mechanisms; best practices; and contact and link information for further assistance.
 - 4.2.4 will be rolled into this.
 - Language needs to be included in the final recommendation to connect this to 4.2.2.
- 4.2.4 Create a menu of “consultant-type” services for local and regional governments to be housed at a central location, preferably with the Smart Planning Toolbox. This menu should be a collaboration between the COGs, League of Cities, Iowa universities, the Iowa Association of Regional Councils, and state agencies.
 - Roll into 4.2.3
 - Change language from “consultant-type” to “free or lost cost planning services available to communities through non-profit and private organizations”
- 4.2.5 Develop an accessible statewide GIS and data system.
 - Roll this into 4.1.3.

- 4.3.1 Require an adopted smart plan for state grants in programs that affect land use, transportation and other public facilities.
 - Change language to “Consideration of a certified smart plan to receive state grants in programs or projects that affect...”
 - Add language in the final recommendation to include those applicants who are in the process of creating a smart plan.
 - Move to “Program Incentives” section.
- 4.3.2 Require an adopted smart plan with a hazards element for state grant programs that affect land use, stormwater management, and floodplain protection.
 - Change language to “Consideration of a certified smart plan with a hazards element to receive state grants in programs or projects that affect...”
 - Add language in the final recommendation to include those applicants who are in the process of creating a smart plan.
 - Move to “Program Incentives” section.

IV. Small Group Report Out (*Les Beck and Rick Hunsaker*)

- Rick Hunsaker discussed the changes made by Small Group 1.
- Les Beck discussed the changes made by Small Group 2.

V. Closing Remarks

- Rick Hunsaker brought the idea to the committee of a smaller group to fully develop the recommendations and asked for volunteers. The following people are participating in the small group:
 - Les Beck, Rick Hunsaker, Aaron Todd, Nichole Warren, Jenna Anderson, Liz Van Zomeren, Jessica Harder, David Wilwerding, Gary Taylor, Wayne Petersen.
 - The draft recommendations will go out to the full committee before the September 7th meeting.

VI. Next Meeting

September 7th (State Library, Miller Building, Room 310)